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Al [0035] Accordingly, it has been found that the coupling of the ABA concentrations and/or gelling agent manipulations taught for initiation of primary somatic embryogenesis in U.S. Patent No. 5,856,191, with the method for biolistic transformation and selection, described in U.S. patent application Serial No. 09/318,136 filed on 25 May 1999 and New Zealand Patent No. 336149, each incorporated herein by reference, or with the method for Agrobacterium transformation and selection, described in U.S. patent application Serial No. 09/973,088 filed concurrently herewith, entitled "Enhanced Transformation and Regeneration of Transformed Embryogenic Pine Tissue" (Attorney Docket No. FSL 2411-110), incorporated herein by reference, yields a marked improvement in the growth of embryogenic cultures during the critical phase of selection.

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[0036] Culture of pine embryogenic cells on media containing a lowered gelling agent concentration is facilitated by the use of highly liquid-permeable membrane supports, made from low-absorption fibers such as polyester and other non-cellulosic fibers with similar characteristics described in U.S. patent application Serial No. 09/973,088 filed concurrently herewith, entitled "Enhanced Transformation and Regeneration of Transformed Embryogenic Pine Tissue" (Attorney Docket No. 2411-110), incorporated herein by reference.
